

Honorable Council Members

My name is Adam Vacirca. I am a 17 year old senior at Ewing High School where I am on the executive council of the student government. I am in my second year of the automotive technology course at the Mercer County Vocational Sypeck Center, where I am the President of my class. I am also a member of both the Character Education Group, and the Advisory Council of Elite Students.

I am in the Automotive Technology course. There we learn how to diagnose all problems of the automobile and where to start and go about fixing them. While using state of the art tools under the instruction of a professional, who not only teaches but who has worked in the trade for many years as well. This program leads to many open doors for our future careers. Here in Automotive Technology we have a program called AYES(). This is where students become fully certified to work on automobiles where they start their apprenticeship. Having this program gives the students two years of experience before they even graduate high school. Thus leading to more success in life and making dreams into reality. From the experience we get from the course and the credentials we receive, we can now hold a professionally full time paying job right out of high school. This program is the greatest thing for young adults who know what type of career field they want to be in.

By having this school we are getting a head start on our careers. Which means more experience, money, and knowledge in our chosen career. Mercer County Vocational School also offers a variety of courses, in which a student receives nine credits towards Mercer County Community College upon graduation. Also depending on how well we do

we may become eligible for scholarships as well. From all of this schooling we can further continue your education to all of the Automotive institutes(UTI, PENCO TEC, LINCON TEC, IST and many more)

I chose to enroll at the Sypeck center because of what these courses can do for the students and how better off in life you they can be. We do not just learn about your selected trades, we also learn to work and get along with strangers from several different high schools and build friendships as well. Every memory and friendship that I have from this program I will never forget and will continue to bring them along in my future. An example of someone who is successful from this program is my oldest brother Vito Vacirca III. He went to the vocational schools for the following courses: he was in the first class of the Fire Science Technology program offered at the mercer county fire academy. Which certified him with fire fighter I, EMT-D, hazardous materials, and emergency medical dispatcher. From those basic courses he advanced his training throughout emergency services to now being Chief of EMS for Ewing Township for approximately 1 1/2 years now. After completing the fire science program and obtaining 18 college credits, he returned back to the vocational system and continued his education in the health fields at the health occupations center on Klockner Rd. His course of study there began in the LPN (license practical nurse) program but then switched to the health technology becoming certified in phlebotomy and EKG interruptions. After obtaining those certifications he worked in St. Frances E.R and was assigned to all critical areas ER, ICU, and CCU. The basic foundation of certifications that he obtained from the county vocational program as well as the continuing experience and knowledge in his

field has now led him to being a Sheriff Officer for the County of Mercer, as well as obtaining his Federal Certifications in Incident Management.

By adding the extra class you are taking away the right from the future of our world to better themselves. There is always a big issue about the kids in the world today and how if we do not help them our world is going to become corrupt. So let's help fix that by encouraging vocational school. These schools give children the motivation to learn, and make them feel good about themselves for actually earning the grade. Not only do we have to do well in Vocational school to stay there, but your high school grades have to be good to stay there as well. This also a good reason because it makes the kids strive to earn good grades and help budget their time for studying habits. This school has had great effects on me because it gave me the chance to expand my education in the field of my career while in the learning environment that is best for me. I am a hands-on learner and this is why vocational school is great. Here at Sypeck it is strictly business and no horse play. Which means more time to learn and better ourselves for our future. I will encourage my children to enroll in this program because it brings a positive view to school studies and will help to motivate them. I have absolutely no regrets about attending this program, and will always support it because it has prepared me and allowed me to experience the real working world at a young age. This program has set me up for success in my future career.

Thank you for your time